Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 /046 W

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R 271605Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6143

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SNAR BL

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF HOST COUNTRY DRUG OFFICIALS

REF: (A) STATE 064772 (B) QUITO 2094 (C) SANTIAGO 1816

1. BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND I HAVE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK TO REVIEW NARCOTICS MATTERS AND OTHER ITEMS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. THIS MEETING WILL GIVE ME A CHANCE FOR FIRST TIME TO RAISE WITH THE MINISTER THE IDEA OF BOLIVIA HOSTING A MEETING OF COUNTRY DRUG OFFICIALS. IT IS MY INTENTION, WHICH I HOPE S/NM WOULD APPROVE, TO SUGGEST TO THE MINISTER THAT BOLIVIA ISSUE INVITATIONS TO A FEW KEY DRUG OFFICIALS FROM ARGENTINA, CHILE, AND PERU ONLY. I WILL EMPHASIZE THE MAIN OBJECTIVE, WHICH IS TO IMPROVE PERSONAL CONTACT AMONG DRUG OFFICIALS OF COUNTRIES WITH COMMON BORDERS AND MUTUAL INTEREST IN SPECIFIC NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS. I WILL OFFER U.S. FINANCING OF THE CONFERENCE BUT WILL STRESS A VERY LOW KEY US INVOLVEMENT. IF THE MINISTER'S REACTION IS CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITIVE, I WILL MENTION THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME SUGGESTION

THAT OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS ECUADOR AND COLOMBIA BE INVITED AND THAT SOME OTHER INTERESTED OFFICIALS SUCH AS FROM UN, INTERPOL, AND DEA BE INVITED. SINCE IT IS MY PREFERENCE THAT THESE COUNTRIES AND THESE OFFICIALS NOT ATTEND THE MEETING, I INTEND TO STRESS THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE SMALLER MEETING BUT WILL GIVE THE MINISTER AN OPTION TO INDICATE HIS VIEWS ON THE LARGER SESSION.

2. ONE FACTOR WE HERE IN LA PAZ MUST BEAR IN MIND IN GOING FORWARD ON THE MEETING IS THAT THE BOLIVIAN DRUG AGENCY IS STILL SOMEWHAT DISORGANIZED AND NOT WELL LED. WE MUST THEREFORE, I FEEL, WORK WITH IT CAREFULLY AND SEEK TO IMPROVE ITS FUNCTIONING IN A GRADUAL WAY. THUS THE SMALLER MEETING WILL PROVIDE CERTAIN SPECIFIC BENEFITS FOR CROSS-BORDER OPERATIONS ON COCAINE TRAFFICKING, WHEREAS THE LARGER MEETING, I FEEL, WILL TEND TO BECOME MORE THEORETICAL, MORE GENERAL, AND LESS PRODUCTIVE. IN THIS CONNECTION I NOTE THAT EMBASSY QUITO IS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO ENCOURAGE ECUADOREAN PARTICIPATION AT A US-SPONSORED SESSION. THUS THE SMALLER MEETING WOULD ACCORD WITH THAT EMBASSY'S VIEWS. I SHARE TOTALLY AMBASSADOR POPPER'S VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REF C. STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SNAR, BL, US, XM To: STATE

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